

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 6-10 stand rejected and claims 4 and 5 have been objected to. The following remarks are addressed to the referenced paragraphs of the Final Office Action dated January 13, 2005

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Woertz (U.S. Patent No. 3,720,778).

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1, as amended, is allowable because it includes a feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely "the piercing contacts being moveable in a plane perpendicular to the piercing direction by rotation of the rotary unit." The amended claim 1 more clearly provides that the piercing contacts are movable in a plane perpendicular to the piercing direction, as provided in the specification and not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. The movement in a plane perpendicular to the piercing direction is significant because it allows the piercing contacts to be aligned with the conductors of a ribbon cable.

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1, as amended, is also allowable because it includes another feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely "a rotary unit mounted rotatably in the holder and having a plurality of piercing contacts." The Office Action argues that Applicants have not claimed that the rotary unit and the piercing contacts are different elements. Claim 1, as amended clearly defines that the piercing contacts are different elements from the rotary unit. This feature is significant because it allows the rotary unit to be moved to align the piercing contacts with conductors of a ribbon cable prior to actuating the piercing contacts to create electrical connection between the piercing contacts and the conductors. To the extent that screw 61 of Woertz is a piercing contact, it is not disposed in a separate rotary device, but as clearly pointed out in the Office Action is itself the rotary unit and the piercing contact.

Claims 2-3 and 6-10 depend from claim 1 and Applicants respectfully contend that they are allowable for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 4 and 5 include allowable subject matter. Claims 4 and 5 are rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intermediate claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that Claims 4 and 5 are allowable.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons and in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully contend that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, allowance of claims 1-10, and issuance of Letters Patent for the subject invention. Please charge any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 50-1581.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven E. Bach
Registration No. 46,530
Attorney for Applicants
Phone: (610) 889-3697
Facsimile: (610) 889-3696
PTO Customer No. 29450

Dated: March 14, 2005